

Dear Honorable Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I am writing in OPPOSITION to Raised H.B. No. 5361, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN COASTAL RESOURCES.

I understand that towns like Fairfield charge a lot for a day at the beach. However, this bill will affect all beach towns. I live in Stratford which currently gives beach stickers to tax-paying residents for free. We are not Fairfield, if they start charging residents a parking fee, many residents who live here and pay taxes will no longer be able to go to the beach.

Our beach offers many of the same, if not more amenities than the wealthier towns. We have lifeguards, concession, restrooms, volleyball, basketball, golf, pavilions, an aquatic wheelchair and ramp, etc. and it is only \$20 for non-residents to park and free after 4pm every day.

There are plenty of reasonable or even free options for Connecticut residents to go to the beach. The burden should not fall on shoreline towns and their tax-payers. Not all shoreline towns are wealthy, maybe putting a cap on what can be charged would be more helpful.

Sincerely,

Sarah Maseto